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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231  
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APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE	GRP ART UNIT	FIL FEE REC'D	ATTY.DOCKET.NO	DRAWINGS	TOT CLAIMS	IND CLAIMS
09/998,392	11/29/2001	2171	824	AUS920011027US1	16	12	4

CONFIRMATION NO. 7315

Mr. Volel Emile  
P.O. Box 202170  
Austin, TX 78720-2170

## FILING RECEIPT



OC000000007212475

Date Mailed: 12/19/2001

Receipt is acknowledged of this nonprovisional Patent Application. It will be considered in its order and you will be notified as to the results of the examination. Be sure to provide the U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER, FILING DATE, NAME OF APPLICANT, and TITLE OF INVENTION when inquiring about this application. Fees transmitted by check or draft are subject to collection. Please verify the accuracy of the data presented on this receipt. If an error is noted on this Filing Receipt, please write to the Office of Initial Patent Examination's Customer Service Center. Please provide a copy of this Filing Receipt with the changes noted thereon. If you received a "Notice to File Missing Parts" for this application, please submit any corrections to this Filing Receipt with your reply to the Notice. When the USPTO processes the reply to the Notice, the USPTO will generate another Filing Receipt incorporating the requested corrections (if appropriate).

## Applicant(s)

Bhupesh Gupta, Lahra Gali, INDIA;

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APR 22 2003

## Assignment For Published Patent Application

International Business Machines Corporation, Armonk, NY;

Technology Center 2100

## Domestic Priority data as claimed by applicant

## Foreign Applications

If Required, Foreign Filing License Granted 12/19/2001

Projected Publication Date: 05/29/2003

Non-Publication Request: No

Early Publication Request: No

## Title

Apparatus and method of highlighting categorized web pages on a web server

## Preliminary Class

707

PTO-103X  
(Rev. 6-98)

## FILING RECEIPT



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Patent and Trademark Office  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY AND COMMISSIONER  
OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231

APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE	GRP ART UNIT	FIL FEE REC'D	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	DRWGS	TOT CL	IND CL
09/409,595	09/30/99	2773	\$964.00	AT-9-99-521	10	27	4

DUKE W YEE  
CARSTENS YEE & CAHOON LLP  
P O BOX 802334  
DALLAS 'TX 75380

Receipt is acknowledged of this nonprovisional Patent Application. It will be considered in its order and you will be notified as to the results of the examination. Be sure to provide the U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER, FILING DATE, NAME OF APPLICANT, and TITLE OF INVENTION when inquiring about this application. Fees transmitted by check or draft are subject to collection. Please verify the accuracy of the date presented on this receipt. If an error is noted on this Filing Receipt, please write to the Office of Initial Patent Examination's Customer Service Center. Please provide a copy of this Filing Receipt with the changes noted thereon. If you received a "Notice to File Missing Parts of Application" ("Missing Parts Notice") in this application, please submit any corrections to this Filing Receipt with your reply to the "Missing Parts Notice." When the PTO processes the reply to the "Missing Parts Notice," the PTO will generate another Filing Receipt incorporating the requested corrections (if appropriate).

Applicant(s) CAROLYN BROWN BJERKE, AUSTIN, TX.

IF REQUIRED, FOREIGN FILING LICENSE GRANTED 10/22/99  
TITLE  
METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MANAGING LINKS IN A DATA PROCESSING SYSTEM

PRELIMINARY CLASS: 345

RECEIVED  
OCT 27 1999  
BY: *[Signature]*

DATA ENTRY BY: THOMAS, SHEILA TEAM: 06 DATE: 10/22/99





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APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE	GRP ART UNIT	FIL FEE REC'D	ATTY.DOCKET.NO	DRAWINGS	TOT CLAIMS	IND CLAIMS
09/974,989	10/11/2001	2176	1550	AUS920010197US1	11	37	9

**CONFIRMATION NO. 8101**

**FILING RECEIPT**



'OC000000007068045'

Duke W. Yee  
Carstens, Yee & Cahoon, LLP  
P.O. Box 802334  
Dallas, TX 75380

Date Mailed: 11/14/2001

Receipt is acknowledged of this nonprovisional Patent Application. It will be considered in its order and you will be notified as to the results of the examination. Be sure to provide the U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER, FILING DATE, NAME OF APPLICANT, and TITLE OF INVENTION when inquiring about this application. Fees transmitted by check or draft are subject to collection. Please verify the accuracy of the data presented on this receipt. If an error is noted on this Filing Receipt, please write to the Office of Initial Patent Examination's Customer Service Center. Please provide a copy of this Filing Receipt with the changes noted thereon. If you received a "Notice to File Missing Parts" for this application, please submit any corrections to this Filing Receipt with your reply to the Notice. When the USPTO processes the reply to the Notice, the USPTO will generate another Filing Receipt incorporating the requested corrections (if appropriate).

**Applicant(s)**

Tai Anh Cao, Austin, TX;

**Assignment For Published Patent Application**

International Business Machines Corporation, Armonk, NY;

**Domestic Priority data as claimed by applicant**

**Foreign Applications**

If Required, Foreign Filing License Granted 11/14/2001

Projected Publication Date: 04/17/2003

Non-Publication Request: No

Early Publication Request: No

**Title**

Method, apparatus, and program for finding and navigating to items in a set of web pages

**Preliminary Class**

707



## Electronic Docket Folder

ROC9-1998-0222-US1

<b>Title:</b> Method and Computer Program Product for Identifying Hypertext Links in Document Printouts	
<b>Responsible Attorney:</b> Les Payne	<b>Disclosure Number:</b> ROC8-1998-0332
<b>Task Attorney:</b> Les Payne	<b>Application Number:</b> 09/292444
<b>Outside Counsel Firm:</b> JOP	<b>Patent Number:</b>
<b>Filing Date:</b> 15-Apr-1999	<b>Issue Date:</b>
<b>Owning Division:</b> SG	<b>Patent Ownership:</b>
<b>Application Jurisdiction:</b> (US) United States of America	<b>Publication Number:</b>
<b>Priority Jurisdiction:</b> (US) United States of America	<b>Examination Requested:</b>
<b>Priority Date:</b> 15-Apr-1999	<b>Search Report Received:</b>
<b>IBM to Pay Fees</b> <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<b>PPM Tech Area:</b> 700 - Network Computing
<b>Inventor(s):</b> C BATES, PR DAY	

### Events

19-Oct-1998 DOCKET APPLICATION FOR FILING  
15-Apr-1999 File Application - Formal drwgs + Formal papers - no IDS  
26-Apr-1999 Receive Postcard - Application Filing  
28-Apr-1999 Complete Dossier  
18-May-1999 File Request for Corrected Filing Receipt  
20-May-1999 Receive Official Filing Receipt  
23-Jul-1999 Receive Notice of Assignment & Recordation  
10-Aug-1999 File Request for Change of Correspondence Address  
10-Aug-1999 File Request for Change of Correspondence Address  
16-Aug-1999 Receive Postcard - General  
13-Sep-1999 Receive Corrected Filing Receipt  
2-Oct-1999 Migration Event  
15-Oct-1999 Complete FDT  
26-Dec-2000 Receive Notice of Confirmation Number Assignment  
24-Jan-2002 File Status Inquiry  
25-Feb-2002 Receive Postcard - General  
28-Mar-2002 Receive Office Action (Non-Final)  
9-Apr-2002 Receive Response to Status Inquiry  
17-Jun-2002 File Amendment (Response to Office Action)  
10-Sep-2002 Receive Office Action (Final)  
11-Nov-2002 File Amendment- After-Final  
3-Dec-2002 Receive Office Action (Advisory Action)



Searcher: Richard A. Booth, Jr.

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PATENTABILITY

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Search Report for: Leslie Van Leeuwen

APR 22 2003

Search Request No: AUS8-03-0251

Technology Center 2100

Title: A Method for narrowing the focus of URLs with user-defined anchors.

I B M C O N F I D E N T I A L

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What features were searched for?

A method or means for specifying a specific point of focus within a document. A browser that supports named anchors will treat a named anchor as a search target if no such named anchor exists in the target page. This could be implemented in the browser or by using a proxy.

Field of Search:

MANUAL

709/227, 206

707/526, 517, 513, 500, 501, 501.1, 2

395/762, 603

379/1.01

364/140

G06F 17/30, 11/34, 17/00, 17/21

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2003 MAR 24 AM 9:44

(Foreign art and literature was searched in all Subclasses.)

AUTOMATED

<u>U.S.</u>	<u>FOREIGN</u>	<u>IBM</u>	<u>LITERATURE</u>
[x] East/West	[x] WPAT	[x] TDBs	[X] INSPEC
[ ] DTWS	[x] JAPIO	[ ] IBMB	[ ] COMPENDEX
[x] QPAT	[ ] ACM	[x] DOSS	[x] IBM IPL NET

3/25/2003  
Sent Rate  
to Rochester

Non-Patent Literature	Non-Patent Literature
IBM DOSSIER# ROC919980222	IBM DOSSIER# AUS919970254
IBM DOSSIER# AUS90011027	AUS920011037 ✓
IBM DOSSIER# AUS920010197 ✓	
IBM DOSSIER# AUS919990521 ✓	

#  
5982370 ✓

IBM CONFIDENTIAL

#### **How Does Each of the Related Art References Correspond to the Search Features (Claims, if Validity/Clearance)?**

- 1) World Patent WO0237322A2 (Koninklijke Philips Electronics N.V.) appears to describe a method for displaying information content enabling user-friendly navigation through content. When the user accesses information content typically contained in a Web page, a cursor is initially positioned such as to indicate an element of information content in that Web page that was determined from a user's profile to be of likely interest. In one example, an Internet Browser positions the cursor, upon access of a Web page, for indicating the hyperlink most frequently requested by the user in given past period. (Abstract). Several objects of the present invention are to provide an efficient alternate method for assisting a

**user in navigating through information content; provide a user-friendly method for displaying information content; determine a user profile; determining from the profile, an element among a plurality of elements of an information content; displaying a portion of the information content, and indicating the element of the information content. A portion of the information content is displayed and the determined element is indicated on the information content. (Pg 2, lines 10 – 27).**

- 2) **World Patent WO0159612A2 (Adscience LTD.)** appears to describe a client side data processing apparatus configurable for use with a computer system having a Browser and a method of operation thereof that is configured to process a block of information requested and received over a telecommunications network. The information comprises potentially required data content and tag type mark up language commands for controlling the display of potentially required data content by a given Browser. The apparatus comprises a means for identifying a plurality of types of received tag type commands; and means configurable to process the received and identified tag type commands according to a pre-defined set of rules. Processing may include identification of particular data types within the read content data and processing of any identified content data accordingly, such as, for example, via matching with a key words list. (Abstract).
- 3) **Japanese Patent JP11039310A (Fujitsu LTD.)** appears to describe a method for automatically generating an HTML document and also to highlight a result, etc. which is retrieved and accumulated by detecting a selection page from a file that associates image information with its coordinate value and attribute information and further generating an HTML document that shows the attribute information. (Abstract).

#### **What features do the Background References Show?**

- 1) **US Patent Application US20020147741A1 (Tatsuya Hashimoto)** appears to describe a method and apparatus for facilitating using URL data with a hand-held data processing apparatus, which is coupled to a communication network. Provided methods include selecting a desired URL data using a selection button when a Web page is displayed, and registering the URL data for the displayed

**Web page and URL data corresponding to one or more link points in the Web page. (Abstract).** Highlighting one line in the page display area such as, for example, by displaying a “netting” around the line may represent the active cursor. Of course, it is possible to indicate a character or a line in the display area by other techniques for character decoration over the “netting” for a one-line range using the source data. For example, the credit display may be distinguished from other portions by displaying the character using a display mode having reversed foreground and background colors. [0051].

- 2) **US Patent Application US20020091836A1 (John Brent Moetteli)** appears to describe a browsing method that enables concentrated Web browsing by requiring that a user concentrate on one project at a time. The method creates a GUI having a project search capability and, during browsing, input fields, which demand certain user responses and which enable the user to postpone executing a potentially unrelated line of research until such time as the project at hand is terminated. Thus, the method allows the time shifting of less directed research sessions and the quantifying and allocation of wasteful online time to the responsible parties. (Abstract). The software uses a custom GUI having input fields that demand certain user responses and which enable and encourage the user to postpone executing a potentially unrelated line of research until at such time as the project at hand is terminated. [0011].
- 3) **US Patent 6006217 (IBM Corp.)** appears to describe a system and method for providing enhanced search results for searches for documents on the Internet. In response to a search request from a user at a client computer, a search engine at a search server performs a search for documents at Internet sites matching the search criteria. A list of matching documents is provided to the client in the form of a hits list. For each document on the hits list, a link is provided to a server, which will provide the document to the client in an enhanced format. Upon selection of such a link for a document, a message is sent to the server, and the server retrieves the document from its home server, and modifies the document to graphically highlight the matches to the search criteria found in the document and logically links the matches, so that selection of one match in the document by the user will automatically cause the client to display the portion of the document having the next sequential match. The server sends the modified document to the client for review by the client. (Abstract).
- 4) **US Patent 6061700 (IBM Corp.)** appears to describe a method and apparatus for formatting a specified group of related Web pages into

a single Web page. A user defines a number of selected pages and associated relation criteria for each selected page. A formatting mechanism collects the URLs for the selected pages and those related pages based on the relation criteria and stores the URLs in a URL container. The formatting mechanism further invokes each Web page associated to the URLs contained in the URL container and generates a conglomerate page. The conglomerate Web page may include data insert into or referenced in one or more of the selected pages. The conglomerate Web page may then be printed using a standard Browser print function. (Summary of the Invention).

- 5) UD Patent 5987482 (IBM CORP.) appears to describe a computer system and method that displays internal and external hypertext link definitions in different representations to simplify a user's recognition of the external/internal status of each hyperlink definition in a document. Additional information, such as the direction from an internal hypertext link definition to the location in the document pointed to by that definition, and/or the absolute or relative position of the location pointed to by an internal hypertext link definition, may also be displayed. Moreover, a computer system and method may also display the position of the location pointed to by an internal hypertext link definition on a scroll bar such that location information about a particular document is centralized within a common user interface component. (Abstract).

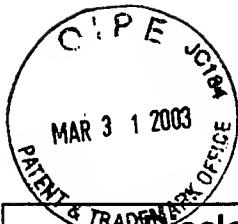
Comments: A browser that supports user-defined anchors and operates as described in this disclosure, was not found in the search.

Signature



Date returned to WAIPL

3-12-2003



## Disclosure AUS8-2003-0251

Prepared for and/or by an IBM Attorney - IBM Confidential

Created By Richard Hoffman On 02/18/2003 05:00:54 PM EST  
Last Modified By Richard Hoffman On 02/19/2003 07:59:43 AM EST

Required fields are marked with the asterisk (\*) and must be filled in to complete the form.

### \*Title of disclosure (in English)

A Method for narrowing the focus of URLs with user-defined anchors

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APR 22 2003

### Summary

Technology Center 2100

Status	Under Evaluation		
Final Deadline			
Final Deadline			
Reason			
*Processing Location	Austin		
*Functional Area	select (49) 49 - AIM - SOFTWARE SERVICE AND SUPPORT (J Swainson)		
Attorney/Patent Professional	Leslie Van Laauwen/Austin/IBM		
IDT Team	select Leonel Machuca/Austin/Contr/IBM Sandra Garcia/Austin/Contr/IBM James Smith/Austin/IBM		
Submitted Date	02/18/2003 05:38:12 PM EST		
*Owning Division	select AIM		
Incentive Program			
Lab			
*Technology Code	772		
PVT Score			

### Inventors with a Blue Pages entry

Inventors: Richard Hoffman/Austin/IBM

Inventor Name	Inventor Serial	Div/Dept	Inventor Phone	Manager Name
> Hoffman, Richard D.	548191	7G/K76A	678-0732	McElroy, Mary E. (Mary Ellen)

> denotes primary contact

### Inventors without a Blue Pages entry

### IDT Selection

Attorney/Patent Professional	Leslie Van Leeuwen/Austin/IBM
IDT Team	Leonel Machuca/Austin/Contr/IBM Sandra Garcia/Austin/Contr/IBM James Smith/Austin/IBM
Response Due to IP&L	03/19/2003

**\*Main Idea**

1. Background: What is the problem solved by your invention? Describe known solutions to this problem (if any). What are the drawbacks of such known solutions, or why is an additional solution required? Cite any relevant technical documents or references.

Users transmitting URLs to other users often wish to focus on a particular part of the page represented by the URL. If this page has named anchors, and a named anchor applies to the desired point of focus, the sending user can accomplish this by writing the URL to include the named anchor (e.g., "http://w3.ibm.com/mypage.html#myanchor"). However, if there is no relevant anchor available, the sending user must resort to verbal instructions (e.g., go to http://w3.ibm.com/mypage.html, scroll down a few pages, and look for the heading called "My Stuff". Then look at the 3rd paragraph."). This invention provides a better way to accomplish this.

2. Summary of Invention: Briefly describe the core idea of your invention (saving the details for questions #3 below). Describe the advantage(s) of using your invention instead of the known solutions described above.

User-defined anchors provide a means to specify, within the rules of existing HTML, a specific point of focus within a document, and to highlight that point of focus. A browser that supports named anchors will treat a named anchor as a search target if no such named anchor exists in the target page. User-defined anchors can also include instructions for highlighting pages. The advantages of this include:

- being able to specify a URL that focuses directly on any portion of the page.
- being able to highlight portions of the page to better call the reader's attention to them
- accomplishing this without additional HTML syntax

3. Description: Describe how your invention works, and how it could be implemented, using text, diagrams and flow charts as appropriate.

A browser supporting user-defined anchors behaves as follows:

1. The browser, having located the page represented by a URL, processes the named anchor portion
2. If no named anchor in the document matches the named anchor in the URL, the browser assumes it is a user-defined anchor and looks for a piece of text matching the named anchor, with the substitution that "\_" is assumed to match any amount of white space.
3. If the user-defined anchor includes the special character sequence "\_\_" (two underscores), what follows is assumed to be additional instructions, as follows (where "n" is a digit):

pn	skip n paragraphs after target string
sn	skip first n instances of target string
hw	highlight the words of the target string
hl	highlight the line containing the target string
hp	highlight the paragraph containing the target string

Example: To locate the second paragraph containing the words "my named anchor" and to highlight that paragraph in a page, the URL would be "  
[http://w3.ibm.com/mypage.html#my\\_named\\_anchor\\_s1hp](http://w3.ibm.com/mypage.html#my_named_anchor_s1hp)".

**\*Patent Value Tool**

\* 1. Select the single most appropriate technology category for your invention from the following technologies list.

(772) PPM 700 Network Computing-772 Web access; web browsers; web page functions  
Comments

Are there any additional significant markets where the invention is likely to have impact?

Yes  No

\*2. Have you implemented the invention (e.g., made a prototype) or otherwise shown that it is workable?

Yes  No

\*3. Has the subject matter of the invention or a product incorporating the invention been offered for sale, or is it likely to be offered for sale, as part of an IBM product or service?

No known product plans within 2 years

Maybe; GA 1-2 years away

Yes; GA within 3-12 months

Yes; GA within 3 months

Yes; product has been announced

\*4. Has the invention been commercially used (internally or externally) by IBM or another entity (e.g., included in or used to make products, or prototypes provided to a customer)?

Yes  No

\*5. In what type of product might a competitor include the invention?

Browser or other web navigator

What competitor(s) (indicate home country of such competitors if not United States)?

Microsoft, Netscape, AOL

\*6. How easily can the use of the invention by a third party be detected?

Undiscoverable; third party must admit use for IBM to know

Difficult; e.g.; with reverse engineering or examination of available code

With work; e.g.; using test cases; but not reverse engineering

Easily; by running & viewing product operation

Trivially; without purchase of product; e.g.; by reading product literature

\*7. Is the invention applicable to a standard?

Yes  No

What is the standard? HTML

Is IBM participating in the standard?  Yes  No

\*8. Have you, or any of the other inventors, submitted this invention disclosure or a similar invention disclosure previously?

Yes  No

9. Please list the invention disclosures (previously submitted or about to be submitted), products,

\*patents, or publications that you and the other inventors feel are the most relevant to your invention (e.g., pertaining to the problem you are solving, including other solutions to the problem), be they from you or anyone else, or if not applicable, enter "None":

None

\* 10. Was the invention made in the course of any activity that involved any other party, be it

The government

A customer (such as an RFQ)

A development partner

- An alliance
- Any contract activity
- As part of a standards setting activity
- Other persons not employed by IBM

Yes  No

\***11.** Have you ever disclosed your invention to anyone outside IBM, or do you plan to do so in the future?

Yes  No

**12.** If the invention relates to a product or service that is outside the scope of your business unit, please recommend IBM business unit(s), IBM location(s) or individual(s) within IBM that you think would provide a competent evaluation of your invention:

Lotus

**\*PVT II**

All of the questions below are required and must be answered in order to calculate a PVT Score

**A. Threshold Questions**

\***1. Operability** - Is there an identifiable operable embodiment of the invention (i.e., an embodiment that has been demonstrated or that would be reasonably expected to provide the benefits of the invention)?

Yes  No

Reasons for above answer:

\***2. Novelty**- Are one or more concept(s) of the invention novel over what is already known in the literature, existing commercial products, patents, and earlier IBM invention disclosures?

Yes  No

Reasons for above answer:

**B. Valuation Questions**

\***1. Adequacy of Description:**

- Inadequate; invention unclear from description
- Incomplete; essential features missing
- Further clarification or implementation detail needed
- Clear and complete as is

State reason for answer:

\***2. Technical contribution of invention:**

- None
- Minor addition to known technology
- Significant addition to known technology
- Major advance in technology

Reasons for above answer:

\***3. Describe the problem solved/benefit provided and the implementation cost of the invention compared to existing or reasonably expected alternatives:**

- Minor problem/incremental benefit - significant implementation cost
- Significant problem; substantial benefit - significant implementation cost
- Minor problem/incremental benefit - minor implementation cost
- Significant problem/substantial benefit - minor implementation cost

\*4. Are any alternatives to the invention available to those wishing to avoid its use?

- Suitable alternatives available
- Alternatives have drawbacks
- No feasible alternatives

Reasons for above answer:

\*5. Describe the likelihood of use of the invention (answer each):

- |                          |                                |                                |                                |                                |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| IBM's customers?         | <input type="radio"/> Unlikely | <input type="radio"/> Possible | <input type="radio"/> Probable | <input type="radio"/> Definite |
| IBM's suppliers/vendors? | <input type="radio"/> Unlikely | <input type="radio"/> Possible | <input type="radio"/> Probable | <input type="radio"/> Definite |
| IBM's competitors?       | <input type="radio"/> Unlikely | <input type="radio"/> Possible | <input type="radio"/> Probable | <input type="radio"/> Definite |
| IBM?                     | <input type="radio"/> Unlikely | <input type="radio"/> Possible | <input type="radio"/> Probable | <input type="radio"/> Definite |

Reasons for above answer:

\*6. What % of third party products in the technical field will likely contain the invention?

- < 25%
- 25-50%
- 50-75%
- > 75%

Reasons for above answer:

\*7. How long is the invention likely to be used in products by IBM or others?

- < 5 years
- 5-10 years
- 10-15 years
- > 15 years

Reasons for above answer:

\*8. How easily can use of the invention by a third party be detected?

- Undiscoverable; third party must admit use for IBM to know
- Difficult; e.g.; with reverse engineering or examination of available code
- With work; e.g.; using test cases; but not reverse engineering
- Easily; by running & viewing product operation
- Trivially; without purchase of product; e.g.; by reading product literature

Reasons for the above answer, including description of how use could be detected:

**Post Disclosure Text & Drawings**

To add additional information related to this disclosure once it has been submitted, click the action button below and a new document will be opened for you to enter the new information. To view existing post disclosure information, double-click on the item in the list below (if there has been additional information entered), and the document will open for you to view.

Date entered      Post disclosure information (comments and drawings)

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Form Revised 09/01/02)



Disclosure Number: AUS8-2003-0251  
Docket Number: AUS9-2003-0305051

The invention provides a way to specify a specific point of focus within a document. A browser that supports named anchors will treat a named anchor as a search target if no such named anchor exists in the target page. This could be implemented in the browser or using a proxy.

Talk to the inventor and get him to give you as many embodiments as he can think of. Please include claim sets of varying breadth and claim to the extent necessary to fully claim the various embodiments.

*Day*  
3/24/03

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Technology Center 2100



Inventor Information for Docket AUS920030305US1

Richard Dale Hoffman  
1321 Wilson Heights  
Austin, Texas 78746  
County - Travis  
Citizenship - USA

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APR 22 2003

Technology Center 2100



International Business Machines Corporation

Intellectual Property Law  
11400 Burnet Road  
Austin, Texas 78758

March 25, 2003

PREPARED BY IBM ATTORNEY

Mr. Volel Emile  
P.O. Box 202170  
Austin, TX 78720-2170

Subject: IBM Docket AUS920030305US1

Dear Volel,

You are being retained to prepare a patent application for the above docket.

Enclosed please find an IBM invention disclosure AUS8-2003-0251 and supporting material for the Docket. The main concept of the invention to be claimed is summarized in the attachment to this letter. The application is to be prepared according to the **Outside Counsel Attorney/Administrative Guidelines for IBM Austin Intellectual Property Law Department**.

Inventor Richard Hoffman has been notified that you will be preparing this patent application and has agreed to the schedule set forth below. The inventor's telephone number is 838-0732.

From our previous telephone discussion you have agreed to complete the patent application for execution by the inventor (s) and deliver it to us by May 16, 2003 for a fee of \$5000.00, including the IDS. Please sign and return a copy of this letter indicating your agreement.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Leslie A. Van Leeuwen  
Attorney  
Intellectual Property Law  
512-823-6746

Enclosures

I agree that an execution copy of the above application will be completed and sent to IBM IPLaw on or before May 16, 2003 at a professional fee of \$5,000.00, including IDS.

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Attorney Signature

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Date